

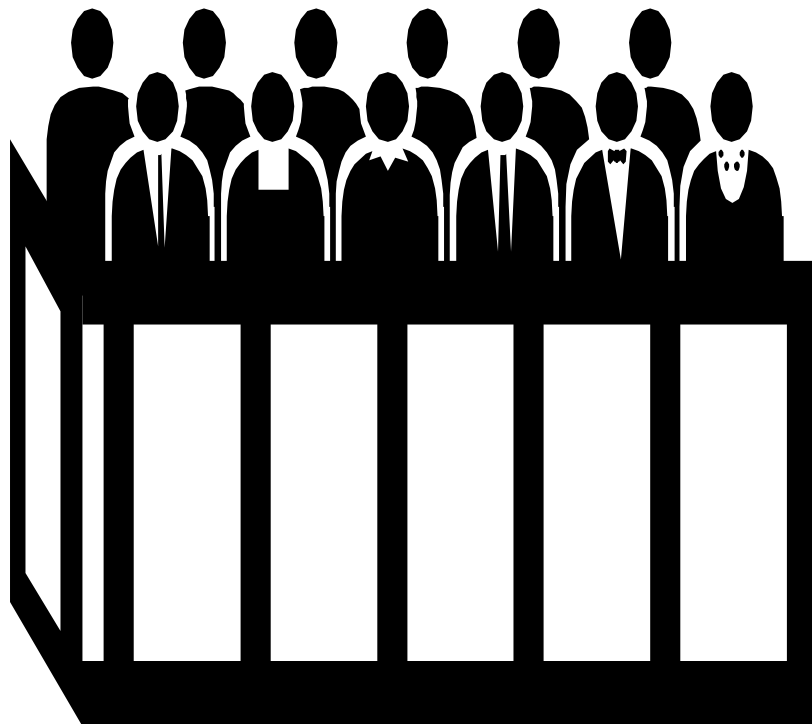
SEMINOLE COUNTY TEEN COURT

PROSECUTION ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH

190 Bush Blvd, Sanford FL 32773

407 665 5364 Fax 407 665 5365

JURY PROCEDURE MANUAL



OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY



The importance of honoring the Oath of Confidentiality cannot be overstated. The business appearing in any court is a personal matter, but juvenile court is confidential. All aspects of a Teen Court session should be considered confidential. Failure to respect this Oath can result in dismissal from participation in the program.

I solemnly swear that I will not divulge, either by words or signs, any information which comes to my knowledge in the course of a teen court session, and that I will keep secret all said proceedings which may be held in my presence.

DRESS CODE

NO shorts, halters, backless dresses or tops, spaghetti straps, tube tops, muscle shirts, or clothing that shows your midriff. Males must have their shirts tucked in at all times. No sweat pants, baggy pants, or hats will be allowed. **If you are not following the dress code you will be asked to leave and not receive credit.**

RULES OF CONDUCT

In order to participate in teen court, you must follow these rules:

- ✓ No food, drinks or gum are allowed in the courtroom or jury deliberation rooms
- ✓ No illegal substances
- ✓ Turn off all cell phones
- ✓ Once court is in session, remain in your seat and do not talk
- ✓ No talking to/from the jury deliberation room
- ✓ Do not leave the courtroom or building until dismissed
- ✓ Uphold the oath of confidentiality and do not discuss any case you hear or see with anyone outside the courtroom and courthouse.
- ✓ **DO NOT BE DISRESPECTFUL TO ANYONE.** If you make disrespectful comments or gestures towards any member of the Teen Court staff, you will be asked to leave and not return

JOB DESCRIPTION

Juror

As a juror, you will have an opportunity to participate in a very important part of our democracy. Jury duty is a privilege and a serious responsibility. As a juror, you are required to base your verdict upon the evidence as you hear it in court and upon the law as the Judge instructs you in it. The juror is obligated to perform honestly and conscientiously without prejudice.

Please observe the following rules of conduct during trial:

- ✓ Report at proper hour and date
- ✓ Abide by the Oath of Confidentiality
- ✓ Acknowledge if you know the defendant prior to the case
- ✓ Listen to every question and answer
- ✓ Do not discuss the case with anyone
- ✓ Control your emotions (facial expressions, laughing, etc.)

All jurors should conduct the following in the deliberation room:

- ✓ The business of the jury shall be conducted in an orderly fashion
- ✓ The selected Foreperson shall see that all jurors have an opportunity to express their opinions
- ✓ Only discuss the verdict when in the deliberation room
- ✓ The verdict must be unanimous

Once you have heard your case, you will be escorted out of the courtroom and taken to the deliberation room. You will remain here while another case is heard. When you are done deliberating and the other case has been heard you will be escorted back into the courtroom where the verdict will be heard. You must remain in the courtroom until dismissed by the Judge. You are expected to stay for all Teen Court Hearings being heard in the courtroom you were assigned.

Types of cases you will hear:

Defendants have all admitted guilt prior to their trial, so the purpose of the hearing is for you to hear the facts and assess a fair consequence. These are some common cases heard in Teen Court:

- ✓ Petit Theft (Misdemeanor) – Theft of something worth less than \$300.00 in value. This is also another name for shoplifting or retail theft.
- ✓ Resisting Officer Without Violence (Misdemeanor) – The defendant, in some way, either by running, struggling, etc., resisted the officer without violence
- ✓ False Info to Law Enforcement Officer (Misdemeanor) – Giving false information to LEO. This could include lying to the officer
- ✓ Battery (Misdemeanor) – unauthorized touching of someone such as hitting